

Tale *Feathers*

Oct 2002

Volume 69
Number 8

Fall Picnic

Mary Dueren, Picnic Master Chef, is planning the St. Louis Audubon Fall Picnic at the Freund Education Center, Shaw Nature Reserve. We'll meet, eat, hike and bird from 2-7 pm on Oct 20, 2002. Hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Mary; if you prefer a veggie burger, please let us know when you make your reservation. Soda, beer and ice will also be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. Send \$5.00 for a family or \$3.00 for an individual to

Pat McCormick
1338 Eaglebrooke Ct
Ballwin, MO 63021
636-225-0264

Mail checks by Oct 13 and make them payable to St. Louis Audubon Society

Directions to Freund Education Center:

Follow I-44 west to the Gray Summit exit. Turn left at the top of the exit ramp and cross the overpass. At the stop sign turn right on the south outer road and turn left on the street before the entrance to Shaw Nature Reserve. Follow this road down the hill making a right turn, crossing a one lane bridge and turning a sharp left. Look for the stone gate on the right side of the road. Turn right through the stone gate and follow the gravel road to the Freund Center.

Inside

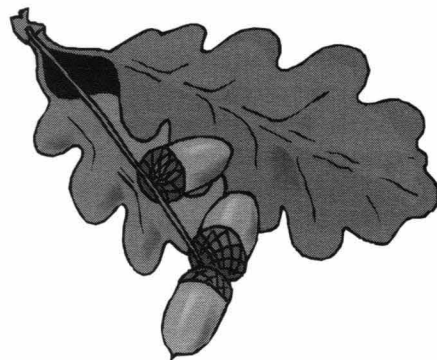
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St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the following committees. If you are interested in helping, please contact the newsletter editor at 314-832-0938 or ambolte@swbell.net for more information.

Nominating - Dave Tylka

Membership Program - Mitch Leachman

Education - Dale Ponce

Conservation - Sue Gustafson

Field Trip - Jim Malone

Hospitality

Publicity - Dency Kahn

Finance/Investment - Torrey Berger

Electronic Communications - Sherry McCowan

Newsletter - Anne Bolte

Bird Seed Sales - Mary Dueren

Please join us for the next newsletter mailing party. The date is Oct 25. The place is not yet known. If you want to help please contact either Anne Bolte at ambolte@swbell.net or 314-832-0938 OR Mary Dueren at mdueren@swbell.net or 314-576-1473 for details.

TOWER GROVE NEEDS YOU

Torrey Berger

We are all aware of the fantastic birding opportunities presented each spring and fall at our own world class "migrant trap", Tower Grove Park. But, did you know that TGP is one of only four municipal parks designated a National Historic Landmark and that it has the most diverse forest of any U.S. urban park, with more than 8,000 trees and woody shrubs of more than 350 varieties. The Park staff have made clear that they are committed to maintaining and improving the Park's habitat for birds and other wildlife, including butterflies.

Many of you may not be aware that TGP is currently experiencing financial limitations. It has no endowment from Henry Shaw and must depend upon funds from the City of St. Louis and private donations for operations and maintenance. Due to general fiscal restrictions, funds from the City have been inadequate for several years, requiring that TGP increase substantially alternative support in order to provide adequate maintenance and upkeep.

Faced with this dilemma, the Friends of Tower Grove Park (a not for profit organization founded in 1989 and dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of the park) have come to us, as an organization and individually, asking that we join their organization. You can become a member by sending your name and address along with a check for \$35 (there are other membership levels also available) to Friends of Tower Grove Park, 4256 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110. To request more information about the Friends and the benefits of membership, or to become a member via Master Card or Visa, you may call 314-865-2394.

This is a cause well worth the support of the St. Louis birding and natural history communities.

No Monthly Meeting in October

Mitch Leachman

Our apologies to those regulars out there that look forward every month to learning what speaker we have lined up. I know you're waiting for just the right person so you can tell your friends and bring them along to the meeting.

Regrettably, it just did not work out for October, but please note the following dates for future speakers and monthly meetings: November 19, January 21, February 14, March 27, and May 20. Just to wet your appetite, future speakers **will** include Jim Rathert (MDC) and Dave Tylka (St. Louis Community College) and **may** include Carol Kershner (Wild Bird Rehab) and John Mabery (Two Rivers NWR).

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson, VP Conservation

River issues: Being located along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Meramec Rivers, St. Louis Audubon Society (SLAS) has always had a strong interest in issues that affect riparian wildlife habitat. SLAS was instrumental in implementing National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign which is directed by NAS staff member Dan McGuiness out of St. Paul, MN. We have recently worked with Dan to submit letters to congressional representatives urging them to oppose efforts to construct or design longer locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers until the Army Corps of Engineers completes an objective, peer-reviewed assessment of navigational and natural resource needs. We have also submitted comment on the Army Corps of Engineers proposal to close the levee in the bootheel area (St. John's Bayou/New Madrid Floodway); we oppose this project because it would eliminate already scarce wetlands and threaten the unique ecosystem of Big Oak Tree State Park that is dependent on natural flooding.

Upcoming events: An opportunity to become more familiar with the Missouri River is being offered by the Missouri River Relief Project which is sponsoring a Missouri River Environmental Expo on Saturday, October 12 from noon to 7 pm in Frontier Park, St. Charles, MO. The expo will include bands, speakers, exhibitors, an Education Tent, a River Art Activities area, a River Café, and a Wildlife Art Exhibition. There will also be a river cleanup and a barge parked on the river near the Jaycee Stage, where fair-goers can witness the growing pile of trash. For more info, visit www.riverrelief.org. Also, mark your calendars for the annual University of Missouri - St. Louis' Conservation Forum to be held at the Living World, St. Louis Zoo, on Thursday, November 14 from 5:30-10:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter P. Marra, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Admission is free. The keynote speaker will be preceded by concurrent presentations by local conservation organizations (including SLAS) describing their mission, activities, and achievements. Hope to see you there!

Notes From The President

I want to take this opportunity to say 'hello'. It was a busy summer with our two sons home from college. The house was hopping with some collection of the boys and their friends over most evenings. A far cry from the quiet of the empty nest my wife and I experienced for the first time last fall. But, the bustle of youth helps to keep us feeling young and going strong. It seems quiet again now that they have returned to school.

As the season changes to autumn, though, Audubon is gearing back up after a brief summer hiatus. I am glad to be returning to an active role in the St. Louis Audubon Society. I am proud of the long history we in Audubon have of being a moderate voice on environmental issues and one that works with other conservation organizations to achieve common goals. We have a great group of people serving on the Board of Directors and the various committees. We are all enthusiastic and committed to working toward our conservation/education goals. Please join us so that we can accomplish even more. What you see in the newsletter articles provides a glimpse at what we are doing. Find something that interests you, and give us a call to find out how you can help.

Bill Salsgiver



Volunteers Needed for Honeysuckle Removal in Kennedy Woods, Sunday, November 10

Jim Holsen

Once again KWAG (the Kennedy Woods Advisory Group) is calling for volunteers to help eradicate the remaining honeysuckle bushes in Kennedy Woods of Forest Park. With your help, this should be the year we finish cleaning out the major patches of this exotic plant. We have had great turnouts in the past and those volunteers who help with this important job work hard but have a great time.

The Honeysuckle Kill is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 10, 2002. Volunteers may work in one of two shifts, 10:00 am to noon or noon to 2:00 pm. Meet at the shelter near the Kennedy Woods trailhead off of Wells Drive in Forest Park; this is just behind (i.e., to the west of) the Zoo grounds. Wells Drive is the Park road just north of Highway 40/I-64. There is a Department of Conservation sign at the turnoff to the trailhead.

Bring cutting tools (loppers, small saw, pruners), if you have them, and also gloves, drinking water and friends to help. Some tools will be on hand for those who need them. Volunteers usually work in teams of about three persons; two to cut and stack the branches and one person to paint the stumps with a concentrated solution of Roundup. This eradication program is best done in the fall when sap, with the Roundup painted on the cut stem, is naturally drawn down into the root system.

In case of rain, the Honeysuckle Kill program will be held on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Volunteers should contact Ken Cohen (314-725-1147) or Randy Korotev (314-993-0055). Tell them which shift you wish to work, how many people will be with you, and your name.

Two Rivers NWR Work Day October 19

Join us on Saturday, October 19 as we work to restore the natural character of the Gilbert Lake area of Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge outside Grafton, Illinois.

This is our second clean-up day of the year, and with the spring floods, it is really needed. This comes right at the end of National Wildlife Refuge Week so let's make it a good showing while helping to make this habitat more *habitable* for its wild residents.

We will work from about 10a to 2p, with lunch afterward in Grafton. Bring gloves, boots, and drinking water—trash bags will be provided.

Call Mitch Leachman at (314) 739-5112 for more info and to sign up.

address and telephone number, plus email address if you use email. If you use email, you may leave the same information with Jerry Farm at jerryfarm@treeswallow.com, kalanc@hotmail.com (for Ken Cohen), or rlk@levee.wustl.edu (for Randy Korotev).

Those who have access to the internet may go to Jerry Farm's web site at <http://treeswallow.com/honeysuckle> for further information, including a discussion of the problem and a description of how it is solved. This site also contains an excellent picture of a honeysuckle branch with its distinctive red berries, as well as a map of Kennedy Woods, showing where to meet.

The same information, presented by Randy Korotev, may be found at the Webster Groves Nature Study Society web page. Go to www.wgnss.org, click on projects and then look for honeysuckle removal and prairie-savanna restoration projects.

KWAG is an informal group of six or seven persons drawn from several local environmental and nature study groups, including St. Louis Audubon Society, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Webster Groves Nature Study Society and others. KWAG works with Forest Park Forever and the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Department to restore Kennedy Woods and to create a prairie savanna in areas adjacent to the woods. Eventually, the savanna and the woods will provide a unique educational facility for city residents.



Join in the Fall Migration

Jim Malone

On the 8th of September, almost 40 stalwart birders searched the trees and bushes at Tower Grove Park for signs of the fall migration. Our prize for coming out on this hot, humid day was to see 10 species of migrating warblers including Blue-winged, Canada, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, and two beautiful Blackburnian Warblers. We only had a total of 25 species, but they were great birds! Come and join us on our October walks to see the extent of the shorebird migration, the return of waterfowl, and other birds of the season.

October 12 (Saturday) Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, 8:00 AM. This trip will be another all day venture. We visit Two Rivers each fall to take advantage of the variety of habitats and the lure of the rivers to migrating birds. On this trip we expect to have good varieties of waterfowl, passerines, some late shorebirds, a nice variety of raptors, and grassland species. There will be some walking on level gravel roads, but much of the trip is birding from the car. Since this is an all-day trip, be sure to bring your lunch and something to drink. To get to the starting point, take highway 100 North from Alton, Illinois. Continue North on 100 out of Grafton, Illinois to the Brussels Ferry. We will meet across highway 100 from the ferry.

October 27 (Sunday) Horseshoe Lake State Park, 8:00 AM. Beginning this time of year, we spend a lot of time visiting both sides of Horseshoe Lake. This is one of St. Louis' premier locations for waterfowl, sparrows, gulls, grebes, and shorebirds. On this trip we will visit both sides of the lake, looking for fall specialties like Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, and others. We always have a great list of birds on these trips. Come out and join us! To get to the starting point, take I-64/70 East from St. Louis across the Poplar street bridge. Stay on I-70 at the split, and proceed to the highway 111 exit. Turn left at highway 111 and drive about 2 miles to the entrance to the park. We will meet in the first parking area on the right.

November 9 (Saturday) Riverlands, 8:00 AM. The other place we spend most of our fall and winter birding time is Riverlands Environmental Demonstration area in West Alton, MO. We see the greatest variety of Gulls, Ducks, Grebes, and Raptors at Riverlands, and this is the season that these birds begin returning for the winter. To get to the meeting location, take highway 367 North from I-270 past highway 94. Immediately before the approach to the Clarke bridge, turn right at the gas station. Past the gas station, turn right at Wise Road. We will meet at the Teal Pond parking lot. Enjoy the fall migration by going on one or more of our birding trips. Birders of all experience levels are welcome, and we try to help those who need extra guidance and to be certain that everyone gets to see every bird.

The Terry Award

At this year's annual meeting the Robert J. Terry award was presented to Jerry and Mary Lou Miller in recognition of the continuous support and leadership they have given to the St. Louis Audubon Society. For the past twenty-five years they have been active on various committees and have both served as officers and board members. Jerry also spent countless hours singlehandedly maintaining the Terry property. Mary Lou has represented our organization at many public events. We are very grateful for the time and energy they have given over the years in support of the St. Louis Audubon Society.



Enjoy Life! Go Birding !!

St. Louis Audubon Society's Bi-Annual Birdseed Sale

Friday, October 25th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00p.m. and Saturday, October 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Order for the early winter season and be the first on your block to start seeing the flocks migrate to your feeders. Order by Monday Oct. 14th for the 25th and 26th pickup. If you want to help Mary with the bird seed pickup, contact her at the numbers below. Due to a poor seed crop, some seed prices have unfortunately risen.

Make check payable to St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:

Mary Dueren
1701 Rathford
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-576-1473 mdueren@swbell.net

Pick up will be at the NEW location of Wild Bird Center

12792 Olive Blvd.
Bellerive Plaza
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Dave Pierce will be giving 10% off all purchases made by Audubon members when they pick up their bird seed.

All proceeds from the birdseed sale fund the education outreach programs.

Save This Date

January birdseed sale will be the 24th and 25th (of January). Save those dates and look for the December and January Tale Feathers for the order blank.

October Birdseed Order Form

Make check payable to:

St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:

Mary Dueren
1701 Rathford
St. Louis, MO 63146

Name

Address

Phone

Bird Seed Type	Lbs/ Bag	Qty.	x \$	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lb.		x \$10	
	50 lb.		x \$18	
No-Waste Mix no milo, has hulls	25 lb.		x \$8.50	
	50 lb.		x 13.50	
Premium No-Waste no milo, no hulls	20 lb.		x \$10	
	40 lb.		x13.50	
Safflower Seed	25 lb.		x13.50	
	50 lb.		x \$22	
Thistle/Niger	10 lb.		x 8.50	
Total				

Bluebirds Forever

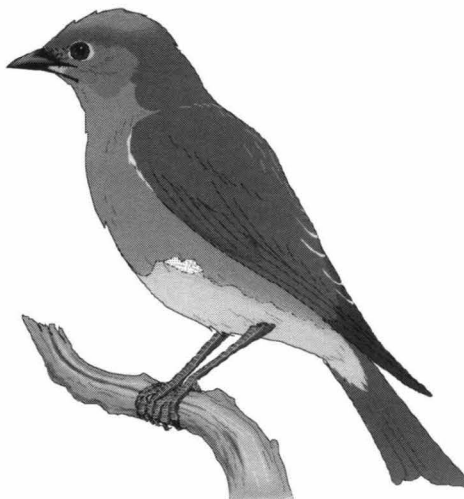
Pete Winter

On the 2600 acre Roaring Spring Ranch in Franklin County, Missouri, we maintain the most ambitious bluebird restoration project in the State of Missouri. A trail of 246 bluebird houses is maintained and patrolled twice weekly throughout the nesting season of the Eastern Bluebird.

The results this 2002 nesting season have been the best and most productive we have ever achieved:

Bluebirds fledged successfully into the wild -- 2149
Black Capped Chickadees fledged -- 238
Tree Swallows fledged -- 86
Flying Squirrels broods -- 3

Accounts and detailed records are kept of each box and nesting sequence for the benefit of the Missouri Conservation Commission.



Build An Owl Box

John Solodar will be teaching "Build an Owl Box" this fall. The class will be on Thursday, October 10, 7:00 - 8:00p.m. at The Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Avenue. You will learn how to develop a plan for attracting owls to your yard over the winter.

Blueprint and material list for owl box provided.

The Green Center, a natural laboratory and cultural gathering place, is headquartered in a 1932-era home in University City's Kaufman Park.

To register, send \$10 by mail to The Green Center. For more information, including a complete fall class schedule, please see their Web site www.thegreencenter.org or contact Dr. Dianne Benjamin, Program Director, at (314) 725-8314 or info@thegreencenter.org.



Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 3,000 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2002 - 2003

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Attention!

The deadline for the Nov. issue is **Oct.**

10. Send inquiries to Anne by

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net

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post 6939 Sharp

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This form makes you a member of **both** the National and St. Louis Audubon.

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership category desired:

- ☐ Introductory / \$20
☐ Special two-year Introductory / \$30
☐ Sr. Citizen / Student / \$15
☐ Local Chapter / \$15 Make checks payable
to SLAS and send to above address

Send a check made out to:
National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, Mo. 63122

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

N01 7XCH

Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.